Introduction to Google Fusion Tables

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You should all have a Gmail account to use any of the data tools in Google.

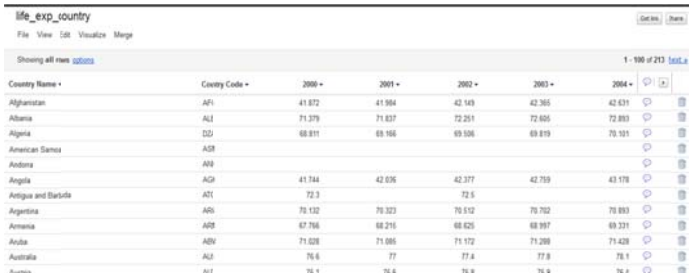
To log in to Google Fusion Tables, go to www.google.com/fusiontables and logon with your Gmail account and password.

You can upload data from your own computer or you can browse public data. Be careful about using the public tables – you can't always verify that the information is correct.

Now that I've said that, let's use a public table called *life_exp_country* that I created from World Bank data.

Search for the file:

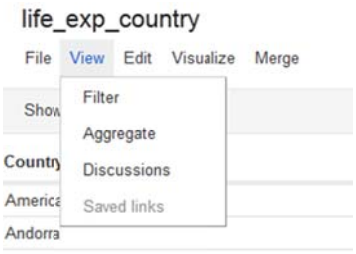
When you find it, click on it to open:

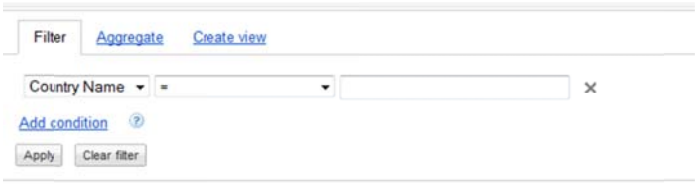


Right now the table is sorted by country name, but you can sort it by any column by clicking on the arrow at the top and choosing ASC or DESC.

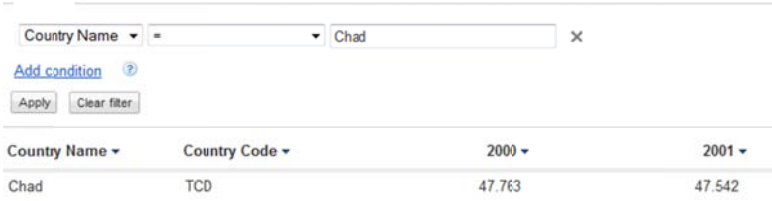
Which country has the highest life expectancy in 2004? [Iceland] Which has the lowest (ignoring the blanks)? [Zimbabwe].

You also can filter your data by clicking on VIEW | FILTER

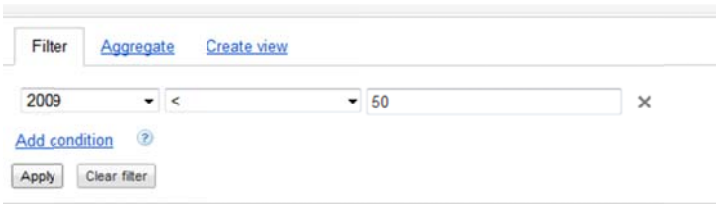




In the first box, choose the FIELD in the database, how you want to compare and the value. Here's a filter to find the country Chad:



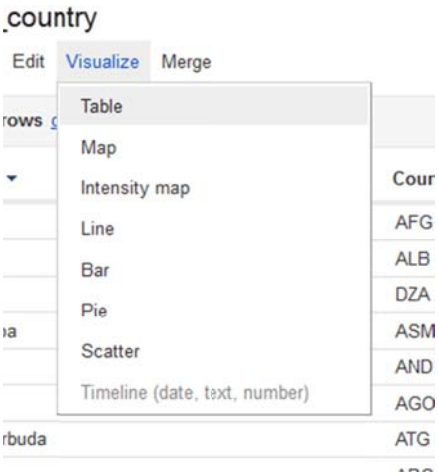
Click CLEAR FILTER to bring back the whole table. Here is a search for countries with life expectancies less than 50 in 2004:



It also will tell me how many records (countries) fit that criteria:

VISUALIZE YOUR DATA

Google Fusion makes it easy to visualize your data. Click on visualize and you'll see all the choices:



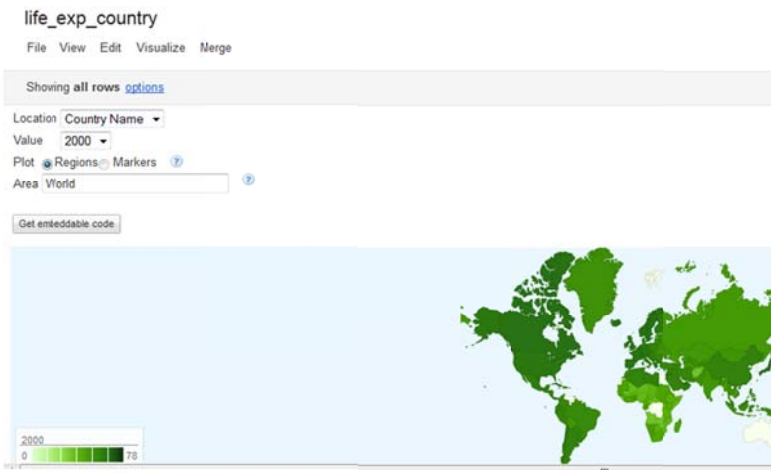
Because there are so many countries, doing a bar chart would be fairly confusing. But we can do a map.

Choose MAP and it will put a point in every country for which we have a record:

Click on a dot to get all of the fields for that country:

Go to VISUALIZE | TABLE to see your data again.

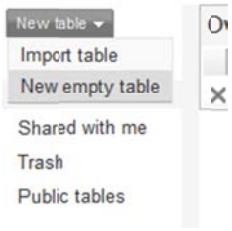
We can do a more interesting map by choosing INTENSITY MAP:



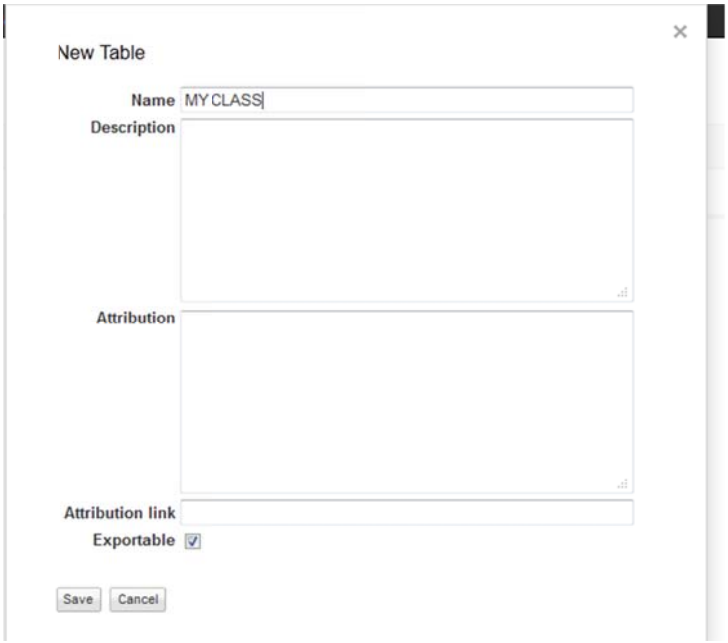
We can change the value being mapped by clicking on the down arrow for VALUE.

How did I get this data in there in the first place? You can add data to Google Fusion by importing from other files or creating new files. Let's import this file from the location provided by your instructor.

You also can create a new table by entering data.

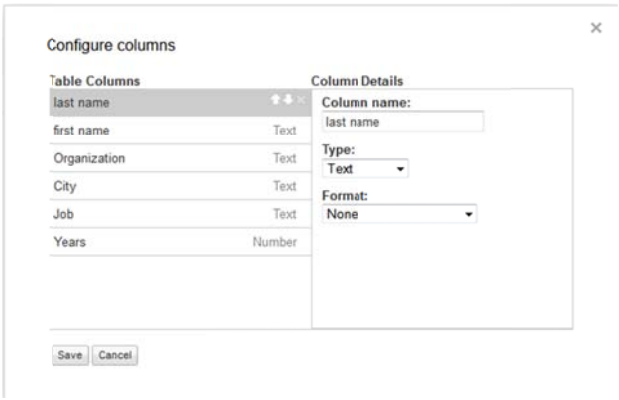


Google Fusion assumes what your table should look like, we need to fix that. Go to EDIT | MODIFY TABLE INFO.



Here is where you can give your table a name and add notes about it (which is a good idea to remember later on).

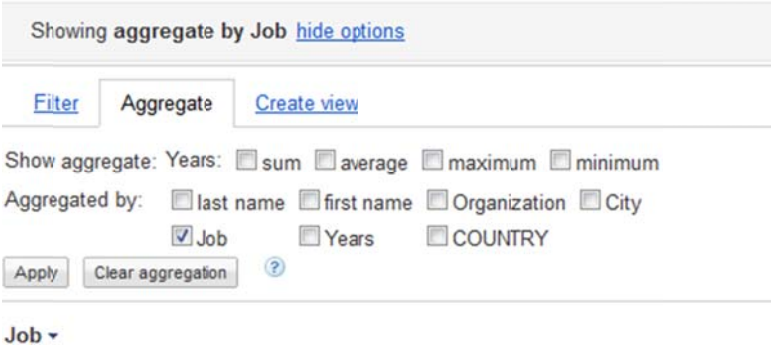
Go to EDIT | MODIFY COLUMNS to change the column names. We're going to build a database of this class. So we'll also have to change the type for each column:



To add more columns, go to EDIT | ADD COLUMNS

To Start entering data go to EDIT | ADD ROW:

Once we have our database built, we can analyze it further by going to VIEW | AGGREGATE:



We can count – by fields such as job or country. We could average the number of years in the business. Click APPLY to run the aggregation. CLEAR AGGREGATION to undo it.

You can share the file with others by clicking SHARE. If you want to make data available online, you need to make it public.